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09/377,402  
520.37464X00**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Shunsuke AKIFUJI et al.  
Serial No.: 09/377,402  
Filed: August 20, 1999  
For: **WORKFLOW SYSTEM, WORKFLOW CONTROL METHOD AND  
STORAGE MEDIUM**  
Art Unit: 2163  
Examiner: Rebecca M. Bachner

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)****UNDER C.F.R. §1.97 AND §1.98**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

July 15, 2002

In the matter of the above-identified application, Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office [European Patent Office Search Report] in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted after the mailing date of the final Office action and is accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) and the following certification specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e).

On information and belief, [Applicants] hereby certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

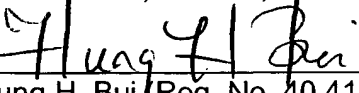
Each of the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 is in the English language. None of these references cited by the EPC Search

Report, including U.S. Patent No. 5,768,506 issued to Randell, and U.S. Patent No. 5,721,913 issued to Ackroff et al., discloses Applicants' disclosed invention as currently defined in claims 1-2, 4-7 and 8-16 pending in this application. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this information disclosure statement (IDS) be considered and entered by the Examiner. A credit card payment form to cover the fee of \$180.00 under 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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